



Southern California Association of Governments

Sustainability Planning Grants: 2017 Active Transportation Call for Proposals (AT CFP)

Overview

The Southern California Association of Governments is accepting applications through August 31, 2017 for the Sustainability Planning Grants: 2017 Active Transportation Call for Proposals. Since 2005, the Sustainability Planning Grants Program (formerly known as Compass Blueprint) has strengthened partnerships with cities and local municipalities by providing consultant services as well as financial and technical resources to selected projects. This program recognizes sustainable solutions to local growth challenges, and has resulted in local plans that promote sustainability through the integration of transportation and land use. The previous call for proposals in 2016 resulted in 65 funded projects, ranging from Bicycle Master Plans to Urban Forestry Initiatives.

The 2017 Active Transportation Call for Proposals is limited to the active transportation category and will fund planning and non-infrastructure projects or programs that promote safety and encourage people to walk and bicycle. These projects will be designed to enhance local interest and/or capacity to build safe, efficient active transportation networks. **Only applicants that have not previously received ATP funding will be eligible for funding through this solicitation.** A list of [previously successful applicants](#) is available on the program website.

Goals

The AT CFP seeks to implement SCAG's 2016 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) and fulfill SCAG's responsibilities to implement the planning element of the Regional Program of the California Active Transportation Program (ATP). The 2016 RTP/SCS was adopted on April 7, 2016 and is a long range vision for transportation and land use planning for the region. The 2016 RTP/SCS outlines recommended strategies for increasing rates of active transportation in the [Active Transportation Appendix](#).

The goals of the 2017 Active Transportation Call for Proposals are to:

- Increase the proportion of trips accomplished by biking and walking
- Increase safety and mobility of non-motorized users
- Continue to foster jurisdictional support and promote implementation of the goals, objectives, and strategies of the 2016 RTP/SCS.
- Seed active transportation concepts and produce plans that provide a preliminary step for future ATP applications.

Funding & Grant Management

Selected projects and programs will receive state funding from the Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Account as part of SCAG's 2017 Regional ATP Augmentation Program. SCAG's Regional ATP Augmentation Program is subject to the requirements of the California Transportation Commissions 2017 ATP Augmentation Guidelines, which direct SCAG to use the policies and selection criteria established in its 2017 [Regional Active Transportation Guidelines \(item 7\)](#) for programming SCAG's share of fiscal year (FY) 17-18, FY 18-19 augmentation funds, approximately \$40 million.

SCAG's 2017 Regional Active Transportation Guidelines allocate five percent (5%) of SCAG's Regional ATP, approximately \$2 million for the 2017 Regional ATP Augmentation, for Planning and Capacity Building Projects. The 2017 AT CFP serves as the primary vehicle for selecting Planning and Capacity Building Projects included in SCAG's 2017 Regional ATP Augmentation Program.

Grants will be managed by SCAG and implemented through its consultants for a five percent fee which will be deducted from the grant award, unless the applicant chooses to opt out of this service. As part of the grant management, SCAG will assume responsibility for procuring consultant support, and provide all necessary reporting and documentation required to funding partners. The Sponsoring Agency will assign a project manager and assume responsibility for the timely use of funds. Grantees not wishing to use SCAG's grant administration services will be required to complete all Caltrans allocation and contractual paperwork and be responsible for hiring their own consultants.

Timely Use of Funds/Time Extensions

All project sponsors must be prepared to initiate their projects in Spring 2018. All work must be completed within 12 to 36 months of project initiation. A more exact period of performance will be determined at the time of project initiation based on project complexity. Time extensions will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Extensions and scope changes must be in letter format. All requests must include an explanation of the issues and actions the agency has taken to correct the issues. All extensions will be contingent on funding availability and approval of the California Transportation Commission, if called for by the ATP Guidelines. SCAG intends all selected projects to be completed in a timely manner and requires that applicants coordinate internal resources to ensure timely completion of the projects.

Regional Equity

Funding to be programmed through the 2017 AT Call for Proposals is constrained based on county and geographic equity requirements established by the funding guidelines for ATP. To ensure compliance with funding guidelines, minimum funding targets will be established for each county and project proposals will be evaluated against other proposals received in their respective county.

Eligible Applicants

Only eligible agencies (as listed below) that have not previously been awarded a California Active Transportation Program grant are eligible for the 2017 AT CFP. A list of [previous awardees](#) can be found on the [program website](#).

- Local or Regional Agency - Examples include cities, counties, councils of government, Regional Transportation Planning Agency and County Public Health Departments.

- Transit Agencies - Any agency responsible for public transportation that is eligible for funds under the Federal Transit Administration.
- Natural Resources or Public Land Agencies - Federal, Tribal, State, or local agency responsible for natural resources or public land administration.
- Public schools or School districts
- Tribal Governments - Federally-recognized Native American Tribes.

Eligible Project Types/Maximum Awards

The AT CFP will fund two types of projects 1) Community or Area -Wide Active Transportation Plans (including First-Last Mile Plans) and 2) Non-Infrastructure Projects. Projects should advance one or more program goals by enhancing community support for active transportation, increasing local capacity to implement active transportation infrastructure improvements and/or improving a local agency's competitiveness for future state and federal funding opportunities.

Community or Area-Wide Active Transportation Plans in Disadvantaged Communities (maximum award: \$200,000)

Planning proposals must meet the requirements of the Active Transportation Program, as described in the [2017 Statewide ATP Guidelines](#). Project Sponsors that intend to apply for multi-jurisdictional efforts that will exceed the funding cap are encouraged to apply separately and reference project coordination in their respective applications. These projects may be combined for administrative purposes after awards are announced. A list of the components that must be included in an active transportation plan can be found in Section 13, subsection E of the 2017 ATP Guidelines. Examples of eligible plans include but are not limited to:

- Community-wide Active Transportation Master Plan
- Community-wide Bicycle or Pedestrian Master Plan
- Safe Routes to School Master Plan
- First-Last Mile Plans (active transportation improvements only)
- Neighborhood Mobility Area (NMA) Plan (active transportation only). See RTP/SCS for description of NMAs

Non-Infrastructure Projects (maximum award: \$200,000)

Non-infrastructure proposals must meet the requirements of the Active Transportation Program as described the [2017 Statewide ATP Guidelines](#). Non-infrastructure projects with permanent infrastructure components are not eligible. Project Sponsors that intend to apply for multi-jurisdictional efforts that will exceed the funding cap are encouraged to apply separately and reference project coordination in their respective applications. These projects may be combined for administrative purposes after awards are announced. Project sponsors are encouraged to apply for activities that extend the reach and impact of the region's successful *Go Human* Campaign, including through implementation of *Go Human* demonstration projects in new communities, expansion of the advertising campaign and collateral, and/or use of the *Go Human* branding in other activities. Examples of eligible projects include but are not limited to:

- Open Streets Event or demonstration projects (pop-ups) directly linked to the promotion of a new infrastructure project or designed to promote walking and biking on a daily basis

- Conducting pedestrian and bicycle safety education programs, including community-wide advertising campaigns
- Development and implementation of bike-to-work or walk-to-work school day/month programs.
- Conducting bicycle and/or pedestrian counts, walkability and/or bicycle friendly assessments or audits, or pedestrian and/or bicycle safety analysis as part of a larger project
- Development and publishing of community walking and biking maps, including school route/travel plans as part of a larger project
- Development and implementation of walking school bus or bike train programs

Match Requirements

Project sponsors are not required to provide match to receive funding through the AT CFP. However, project proposals that include a hard match or leveraging through in-kind efforts will be prioritized in the scoring criteria.

Scoring Criteria

The scoring criteria across both project types funded through the AT CFP will be the same. For each category, the application includes 3 main focus areas. The potential points to be awarded for responses to each area are noted in the application. The question topics and their relationship to the scoring criteria are outlined below. Further clarification regarding how points are awarded will be provided in the project application forms.

Scoring Criteria	
Topic 1: Project Need	50 Points
Mobility	15
Safety	20
Public Health	5
Disadvantaged Communities (Plans and NI)/ Community Need (Capacity Building Mini-Grants)	10
Topic 2: Goals, Objectives and Outcomes	35 Points
Mobility	20
Safety	5
Public Health	5
Public Participation	5
Topic 3: Partnerships and Leveraging	15 Points
Leveraging	5
Cost Effectiveness	5
Public Participation	5

Application Process

Eligible applicants are encouraged to apply to the AT CFP by completing an application specific to one the two Project Types, above. Please contact SCAG staff if the project includes multiple components, or if for any other reason, support is needed in identifying the proper application to use for a project

proposal. An application workshop has been scheduled for July 20 to address any questions related to the application process. For more information and details on the workshop see the [program website](#).

Applicants must complete and submit their application by 5:00pm, August 31, 2017.

Evaluation Process

Six (6) evaluation teams, one (1) per county, will be established to review, score and rank applications submitted to the AT CFP. Each team will be comprised of staff from the county transportation commissions and SCAG. Projects will compete and be ranked against other projects within their respective county, except as noted below. Final awards will be based on application score, regional equity targets and funding eligibility. Following grant award announcements, interested applicants are encouraged to meet with SCAG staff to obtain feedback on opportunities to improve their proposals for future grant cycles.

Schedule

SCAG Active Transportation Call for Proposals Released—Planning and Non-Infrastructure Only	July 6, 2017
Application Workshop	July 20, 2017
Applications due to SCAG	August 31, 2017 (by 5:00 pm)
SCAG Regional Council reviews/adopts AT CFP Recommendations as part of SCAG's 2017 Regional ATP Augmentation Program	October 5, 2017
California Transportation Commission approves SCAG's 2017 Regional ATP Augmentation Program	December 6-7, 2017
Project Initiation	Spring 2018

Contact Information

Questions regarding the SPG application or application process should be directed to:

Call for Projects Questions	Eligibility and ATP Related Questions
Rye Baerg Senior Regional Planner Telephone: 213-236-1866 Email: baerg@scag.ca.gov	Stephen Patchan Senior Regional Planner Telephone: 213.236.1923 Email: patchan@scag.ca.gov

Submittal Information

Applications are due August 31 by 5:00 pm using the instructions provided with the Application. Questions regarding submitting applications for each category should be emailed to Rye Baerg (baerg@scag.ca.gov).

